

REMARKS

In the final Office Action of April 11, 2007, claim 15 was rejected under Section 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,632,191 to Headley et al. ("Headley"); claims 1-6, 8-12, 14, and 16-21 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Headley; and claims 7 and 13 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Headley in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,743,192 to Sakota et al. To expedite examination of the method claims, apparatus claims 15-19 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant specifically reserves the right to pursue these or other apparatus claims in a continuation application.

As for the remaining claims, independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended to further distinguish the claimed methods from the prior art. In particular, claims 1 and 20 have been amended to include a step of "disconnecting the source from the fluid circuit after said processing of the collected blood begins and before all of the blood in the fluid circuit is processed in the processing chamber." This is clearly distinguishable from the prior art of record, and namely Headley, which only describes systems wherein a donor is disconnected from the system before processing begins or after processing ends. For example, the prior art system shown in Fig. 1 of Headley involves disconnecting the donor before processing any blood. Column 1, lines 33-39. The other systems described in Headley involve disconnecting the donor from the system either before processing begins or after it ends, as stated at lines 7-12 of column 4 and elsewhere throughout the specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims

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as amended and all claims dependent therefrom are patentable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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